

the order of the Active Lemur, resembling in the main a small squirrel, but of a lighter hazel, with very large eyes, and the fore feet very much like the human hand, except that there was a protuberance on the ball of each finger and toe; also the Thumbless Monkey.

Yours very sincerely,

T. PERRONET THOMPSON.

*On the Nectariferous Glands of Leaves, and on some Saccharine Secretions.* By M. UNGER.

M. Unger was led to this investigation by his observing on an acacia, in the spring of 1843, that whilst the plant was in flower, a saccharine and transparent liquid flowed from its phyllodia in numerous drops. In 1844 he observed a similar phænomenon on other species of the same genus, but not upon all.

The attention of this German naturalist was particularly directed to the species in which the secretion is the most abundant, the *Acacia longifolia*.

At the base of the lamina of the leaf or of the phyllode of this plant, and at its upper margin, a small impression is remarked in the form of a point, which is the orifice of the excretory canal of a cavity existing in the substance of the organ. This cavity is not hollowed in the ordinary parenchyma, but it is surrounded entirely by peculiar cells with small and thin walls, the whole constituting a sort of glandular apparatus, in the form of a haricot bean, voluminous, and attaining as much as a third of the volume of the phyllode. It is surrounded by several vascular bundles, and has direct relations with four of them.

The cells which form the gland contain no solid matter; but those which surround this apparatus contain granules of starch which become more numerous and larger in proportion to their distance. The liquid which fills them is turbid, which shows its state of concentration. On examining it with the aid of some re-agents, M. Unger was led to admit that it contains, besides the sugar, a second substance, gum or vegetable mucilage. This organization recalls what Schlechtendal has described on the leaves of the *Viburnum Tinus* and the *Clerodendron fragrans*.

The author deduces the following results from his observations:—

1. The nectariferous glands of the leaves possess, with respect to their essential structure, a great analogy with one another.

2. The production of the sugar is effected in all in the same manner.

In the interior of the glands of the *Acacia longifolia*, and toward their deferent canal, M. Unger has traced the existence of several small brown bodies, in the form of articulated tubes, which he thinks may be regarded with some reason as belonging to the *Cladosporium fumago*, Linck, a polymorphous fungus which was abundant in the ground where this acacia was found.

To M. Unger's memoir is added an appendix, the object of which is certain abnormal saccharine secretions. Among these secretions,

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some occur forming a sort of varnish on the upper surface of the leaves of different trees, and cannot be attributed to Aphides. Others, observed on the fir, proceeded from the axes of the branches, which were attributable, according to all appearance, to the irritation of an insect, which was constantly seen at these places, and to which M. Kollar has given the name of *Lecanium abietis*.—*Flora*, No. 41.

OBITUARY—MR. THOMAS EDMONDSTON.

Science has lately had to deplore the loss of a promising and enthusiastic votary in Mr. Thomas Edmondston, the young and talented naturalist who accompanied Captain Kellett to the west coast of America in H.M. Surveying Ship *Herald*. During the month of April, shortly after reaching the Galapagos Islands, Mr. Edmondston was killed by the accidental discharge of a loaded musket. He was the son of Dr. Edmondston of Unst in Shetland, himself a naturalist of reputation, and the author of some excellent papers in the 'Memoirs of the Wernerian Society.' Mr. T. Edmondston displayed his talents at a very early age, and had acquired a remarkable knowledge of all branches of natural history when a mere boy. His age was only twenty-three when he died. He had published many interesting papers on zoological and botanical subjects before leaving England, and was the author of an excellent little 'Flora of Shetland.' He had just been appointed Lecturer on Natural History in the Andersonian Institution in Glasgow, when he was selected for the honourable post of Naturalist to the 'Herald.' During the short time he had been engaged in his duties before his death, he led his friends to form great expectations of the results of his researches—doomed, alas! to be sadly disappointed before he had fairly entered upon the unexplored field to which he had looked forward with ardent anticipations. The following letters written to a friend in England during the early part of his voyage, may serve as melancholy records of the zeal and observing powers of our lamented friend:—

H.M. Ship *Herald*, off Cape Horn, 20th Oct. 1845.

I sit down to give you a brief account of my motions since I wrote you from Rio de Janeiro, and by way of husbanding my time in port, I shall commence this now. We reached the Falkland Islands on the 19th September, after a rather stormy but not otherwise remarkable voyage from Rio; we left again on the 29th. We were very unfortunate in being at these islands while the gales accompanying [their] vernal equinox were raging in all their fury: such villanous weather I never saw—constant gales of wind accompanied by snow and very cold. Doing anything in marine zoology was out of the question, for though both Captain Kellett and myself were extremely anxious to spend as much time in dredging as possible, there was never an hour during the whole time we staid there sufficiently moderate to allow of dredging. Captain Kellett, with his usual kindness and zeal for the interests of science, made me welcome to a manned cutter whenever the weather should allow of my using it; it was however never sufficiently moderate in the wind to render